Un-authorised Banquet Halls in Preet Vihar, Delhi

599. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is mushroom growth of unauthorised banquet halls in Delhi, particularly in Preet Vihar which has adversely affected the peaceful life of residents of the area;

(b) if so, whether all such illegal and unauthorised banquet halls in Delhi are running in connivance with the police officers; and

(c) if so, the details of such illegal banquet halls in Delhi and the steps Government propose to take against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (c) Twenty-five banquet halls in Delhi, including 4 at Preet Vihar, are being run without any valid licence. The owners of 16 banquet halls have already been prosecuted under Section 28/112 of Delhi Police Act and the action against the remaining 9 has since been initiated. No connivance on the part of police officials to the running of these unauthorised banquet halls has been found so far.

Punjab situation

600. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the law and order situation in Punjab has badly deteriorated after the National Front Government took over at the Centre;

(b) whether, despite worst law and order situation in Punjab, the SJP Government tries to get elections done in Punjab;

(c) if so, whether the present Government propose to review the holding of elections in Punjab; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) The year 1990 witnessed the highest number of persons killed by terrorists when compared to the figures of the last 10 years. The peak was reached in November, 1990 when a record number of 364 persons were killed within one month.

(b) The decision to conduct elections in Punjab was taken by the then Cabinet after taking the relevant factors into account.

(c) and (d) The Government is committed to the restoration of normalcy and start of democratic process in Punjab, at the earliest. While doing so, it would be ensured that terrorism and secessionism are firmly dealt with.

Pressure of India by U.S. to sign N.P.T.

601. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the U. S. Administration has been pressurising the Government of India for signing the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT) and a condition to this effect is linked with IMF's loan release to India; and

(b) if so, the stand taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) The US Position historically has been that all countries should sign the NPT, but India's position on this matter is well known. There is no authenticity in reports that any condition to this effect